

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

CLAIMS

1. A filter (10;110) for a liquid supply assembly including a reservoir (9;109) for connection to spraying apparatus such as a spray gun (1), the filter (10;110) comprising an elongate tubular body (10A;110A) closed at one end and open at the other end, the open end being provided with a support collar (27;127) that fits in a filler opening (120) of a reservoir (9;109) and locates said open end so that the filter body (10A;110A) extends away from the opening (120) within the reservoir (9;109) when liquid is added to the reservoir (9;109)
5 through the filler opening (120) characterised in that the tubular body (10A;110A) of the filter (10;110) is sufficiently rigid to maintain an elongate tubular shape and has a surface area and volume when within the reservoir (9;109) to permit, in use, filling of the reservoir (9;109) with liquid that is filtered on being added to the reservoir (9;109) to produce a supply of filtered
10 liquid within the reservoir (9;109) for supply to the spray gun (1) when the reservoir (9;109) is connected to the spray gun (1).
2. The filter of claim 1 wherein the tubular body of the filter (10;110) has a cross-section such that the filter (10;110) can be dropped into the reservoir (9;109) to locate the support collar (27;127) in the filler opening (120).
20
3. The filter of claim 2 wherein the tubular body of the filter (10;110) has an axial length substantially the same as the depth of the reservoir (9;109) in which it is received.
25
4. The filter of claim 1 wherein the support collar (27;127) has an external lip (27A;127A) at the outer end that seats around the marginal edge of the filler opening (120) to locate and retain the collar (27;127) in the opening (120).
- 30 5. The filter of claim 1 wherein the support collar (27) is integral with the tubular body (10A) of the filter (10).

11-03-2005

15:53 FAX 00 44 121 458 1388 BARKER BRETELL

+ EPO MUNICH

US0338072

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

6. The filter of claim 1 wherein the support collar (127) is connected to a cage (128) that surrounds the tubular body (110A) of the filter (10) within the reservoir (9;109).

5 7. The filter of claim 6 wherein the cage (128) comprises a plurality of legs (128A) extending from the support collar (127) at the open end of the tubular body (110A) to a base member (128B) at the closed end of the tubular body (110A).

10 8. The filter of claim 6 of which the cage is sufficiently flexible to allow the filter to collapse if the reservoir containing it collapses.

9. The filter of claim 1 wherein the tubular body is provided with at least one annular support hoop spaced from the collar.

15

10. A liquid supply assembly for use with spraying apparatus such as a spray gun, the liquid supply assembly comprising a reservoir (9;109) for containing a liquid, the reservoir (9;109) being connectable in use to a spray gun (1) for supply of the liquid to an inlet of the spray gun (1) and having a filler opening (120) for adding liquid to the reservoir (9;109), and a filter (10;110) for filtering liquid added to the reservoir (9;109) through the filler opening (120), the filter (10;110) comprising an elongate tubular body (10A;110A) closed at one end and open at the other end, the open end being provided with a support collar (27;127) that fits in the filler opening (120) so that the filter body (10A;110A) extends away from the opening (120) within the reservoir (9;109) when liquid is added to the reservoir (9;109) through the filler opening (120) to filter liquid added to the reservoir (9;109) characterised in that the tubular body (10A;110A) of the filter (10;110) is sufficiently rigid to maintain an elongate tubular shape and has a surface area and volume within the reservoir (9;109) to permit filling of the reservoir (9;109) with liquid that is filtered on being added to the reservoir (9;109) to produce a supply of filtered liquid within

11-03-2005

15:53 FAX 00 44 121 456 1368 BARKER BRETELL

EPD MUNICH

US0338072

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

the reservoir (9;109) for supply to the spray gun (1) when the reservoir (9;109) is connected to the spray gun (1).

11. The liquid supply assembly according to claim 10 wherein, the reservoir
5 comprises an open-topped container (11;111) and a lid (12;112) arranged to close the open end of the container (11;111) and forming the end wall in which the filler opening (120) is formed, the container (11;111) being collapsible as liquid is withdrawn from the reservoir (9;109), and the filter is sufficiently flexible to allow the filter to collapse as the reservoir containing it
10 collapses.

12. A liquid supply assembly of claim 11 wherein the container (11;111) has a flexible sidewall (11C;111C) and a comparatively rigid base (11B;111B) and the sidewall (11C;111C) is foldable to move the base (11B;111B) towards the
15 lid (12;112) as liquid is withdrawn from the reservoir (9;109).

13. The liquid supply assembly of claim 12 wherein the lid is provided with an extension sleeve or cage surrounding the container to provide support for the container.

20

-25-